

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214539
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214539

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 11571 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SEP 07.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 11571

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, UG

SUBJECT: U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS UGANDAN EXECUTIONS

1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CHIEFS OF MISSION RESIDENT IN NAIROBI
BUT ACCREDITED TO UGANDA, I HAVE FOUND DEEP SENSE OF
REVULSION WHICH MATCHES MY OWN AT PROSPECT OF MASS EXECUTION
OF TWELVE UGANDANS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING AGAINST AMIN. AT MY
SUGGESTION I AM CONFIDENT THAT PAPAL NUNCIO AND POSSIBLY SOME OTHER
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS MAY ATTEMPT QUIETLY TO INDUCE UGANDA
GOVERNMENT NOT TO CARRY OUT EXECUTIONS. WHILE I AM MINDFUL
OF DIFFICULTIES IN RAISING ISSUES THAT MAY BE REGARDED AS
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES, I
FEEL THAT IN KEEPING WITH OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS EVERYWHERE WE SHOULD EXAMINE WHETHER THERE IS
ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO STOP THESE EXECUTIONS. WE ARE
BOUND TO DEPLORE THE EXECUTIONS AFTER THE FACT; HOW
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MUCH BETTER IT WOULD BE TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS WHILE
THERE IS STILL TIME.

2. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT WE MIGHT TAKE ONE OR BOTH
OF FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. EXPRESS TO UGANDAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON OUR
CONCERN OVER THE PLANNED EXECUTIONS, POINTING OUT THAT

THE IMPACT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION CAN ONLY DO HARM
TO OUR RELATIONS, STRENGTHENING ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO
ARGUE FOR ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF UGANDA.
B. INSPIRE A QUESTION AT NOON BRIEFING ABOUT
EXECUTIONS, TO WHICH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WOULD RESPOND
BY STATING HOPE THAT SENTENCES WOULD BE COMMUTED.

3. SINCE EXECUTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9, ANYTHING WE DO MUST BE DONE QUICKLY.
PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS
MIGHT ALSO BE
HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT THINK OF MANY NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE OPINION MIGHT MAKE A
DIFFERENCE TO THE UGANDA LEADERSHIP.
LEMELLE
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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